The Southern PATRIOT

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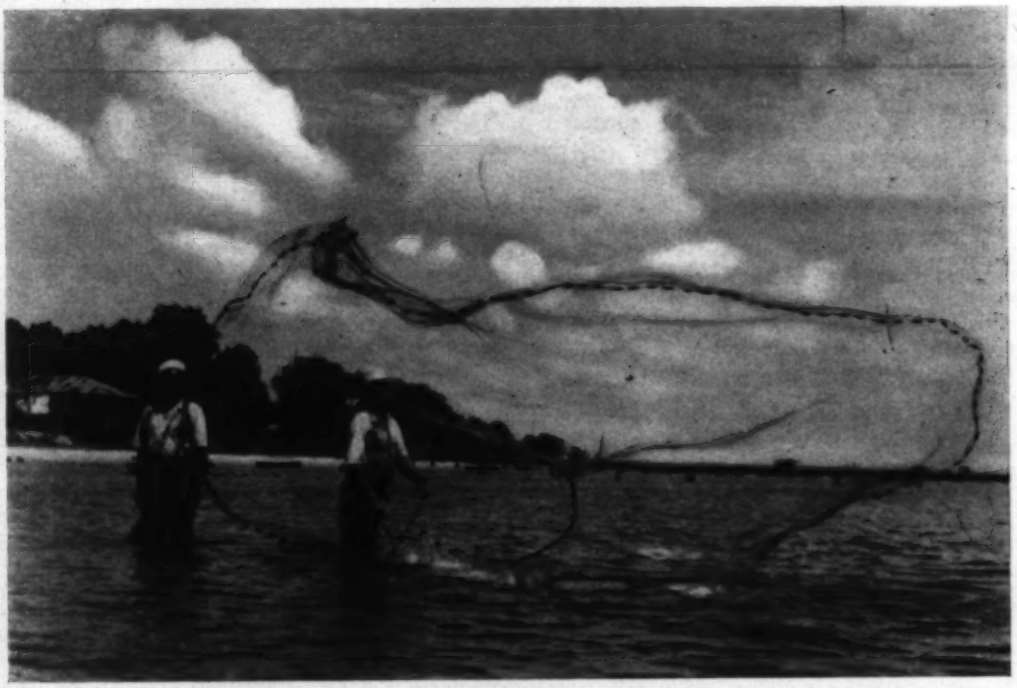
Peace on Earth - Good Will to All Men



THIS peaceful picture of two fishermen with a cast net was (snapped taken by JAD) on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. It lacks the snow and ice usually associated with the Christmas season, but it is reminiscent of the warm waters of the Sea of Galilee where the Great Teacher surrounded himself with fishermen and other workers, bidding them test the power of a brotherhood that knew no bounds, not of race, not of creed, not of national boundaries.

Through the years the world has been quick to test the power of destructive weapons, slow to test the power of the spirit. (Today, Dec. 1, it is announced we are to have another test of the atomic bomb, the third such). Here in the South the spirit has shivered and shrivelled in the presence of Jim Crow churches and schools. Now time is running out. The choice between Eniwetok and Galilee is more urgent than ever. We shall have one world of peace and brotherhood between all men everywhere, or we shall have no world at all.

TRENDS

SUPREME COURT ACCEPTS THREE SEGREGATION CASES

The U. S. Supreme Court on November 7 announced that it had accepted jurisdiction in 3 of the most important cases ever to come before the court involving the issue of segregation. They are the Sweatt case from Texas involving the right of a state to establish a separate law school for Negroes; the McLaurin case from Oklahoma questioning the right of a state to require a Negro student to be segregated from white students at the University of Oklahoma; and the Henderson case testing segregation of Negroes and whites in railroad dining cars.

Elmer W. Henderson, a Negro member of the President's Civil Rights Commission, is seeking to overturn a Southern Railway Co. segregation rule, approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

In a brief filed by the Justice Department supporting Henderson, U. S. Solicitor General Philip B. Perlman argues that the "separate but equal" doctrine is a "constitutional anachronism which no longer deserves a place in our law".

The Sweatt and McLaurin cases, being appealed by the legal staff of the NAACP, will be argued on Jan. 30.

Methodist youth leaders are planning a campaign to end segregation in church supported schools. Of 55 Methodist colleges, only 27 accept Negroes. Four theological schools acept Orientals, but only one admits Negroes.

The Alabama State nursing asso. has offered full active membership to the Ala. Asso. of Colored Nurses. The two groups already have merged in N. C., Fla., and Miss.

CITIZENS SUE FOR USE OF PARK

The 50-year-old policy of City Park, largest and most beautiful park in New Orleans, of denying Negroes the use of the park, resulted in a suit being filed in U. S. District Court on Nov. 17.

The plaintiffs, Mandeville Detiege and the Crescent City Golf Club, C. J. Pharr president, represented by A. T. Tureaud, filed a petition asking for a permanent injunction restraining the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association and Marcel Montreiul, manager, from denying the plaintiffs and other Negroes the use of City Park facilities because of race.

The **Memphis Commercial Appeal** has announced that henceforth the word "Negro" would be capitalized, another indication of how the old levees of prejudice are weakening, if not crumbling.

VIRGINIA PAPER VIEWS INCREASED ENROLLMENT—A HEALTHY SIGN

Time was when the press would "view with alarm" any sharp increase in the Negro vote, but the experience of recent years has changed that viewpoint. One indication of the new attitude is a story in the **Progress-Index**, Petersburg, Va., Nov. 13, 1949 under the byline of Fred Fletcher. The community, wrote Mr. Fletcher, gained a "moral victory" in the record vote cast in the general election that week, which is attributed in part to the interest taken by labor and Negro groups.

"One in every four votes cast here", said Mr. Fletcher, "are by Negroes who, in the past, have taken little or no interest".

The increased enrollment is regarded "as a healthy sign that the public is keeping awake to its responsibilities".

Results of a poll of student and faculty opinion at the University of Oklahoma on the question "Do you favor removal of the 'Reserved for Colored Signs' at O. U.?" revealed 76% in favor of removal, and 24% against. The faculty was 100% for removal. In the poll, conducted by the Equal Education Committee, 1,092 persons were contacted.

In a poll of Tulane University students reported by the **Tulane Hullabaloo**, Oct. 27, on the question of whether Negro colleges and universities should be invited to participate in the program of the Student Federation of Louisiana, 76.04% voted "yes"; 28.2% "no"; indifferent 4.6%. The student body in the Spring of 1949 voted to join the Federation but moved to table the matter of Negro participation at that time.

An investigation by Gov. Folsom of the Jefferson County Board of Registrars revealed that during July, August and September, 124 out of 253 (1 out of 2) Negroes applying for registration were rejected. During the same period only 10 out of 1,217 white applicants (1 out of 121) were rejected.

A special committee of three past presidents of the Medical Society of Virginia submitted a resolution to open membership to Negro physicians. It was defeated by only 6 votes, 37-31.

'TRYING NOT ENOUGH,' SAYS JUDGE

Judge William H. Atwell, of Federal District Court, Dallas, Tex., on Nov. 16 granted Negroes of Waxahacie a permanent injunction against their school board and ordered 8 high school courses, including chemistry, physics and biology included in the curricula of the Negro school within 30 days.

"Trying is not enough", said the Judge, "equal facilities as to courses must be arranged for . . . That is the only way to satisfy the law".

Representatives of 17 Missouri colleges, at a 3-day meeting of the National Students Asso. on Dec. 4, passed a resolution urging Gov. Forrest Smith to back legislation which would permit Negro students in all state-financed schools.

REGISTRATION DRIVE IN FLORIDA

In an effort to raise the Negro registration in Florida to at least 250,000, the Florida Committee for Full Registration has been established with the slogan "A Voteless People is a Helpless People". Edward D. Davis of Ocala is chairman, and coordinators for each Congressional District have been named.

Delegates to the National Interfraternity Conference, representing 59 national fraternities with 2,027 chapters, meeting at Washington, Nov. 26, adopted a resolution urging college fraternities to drop from their charters any racial or religious bars to membership. The resolution is purely advisory. Last year a referendum decided that the subject was "not proper" for consideration. It was ruled off the agenda again this year but came to the floor as the result of pressure from undergraduate delegates. The anti-bias resolution carried 36 to 3 with 19 fraternities abstaining.

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THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.

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U. S. Court Invalidates Regional High Schools

In a ruling of profound significance for the public schools of the South, the U. S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit has ruled in effect that Virginia's system of regional high schools for Negroes violate the 14th Amendment because, among other reasons, Negro students are required to travel longer distances than white students.

The appellate court reversed Judge A. D. Barksdale of the District Court of Western Virginia in a case brought by parents of Negro children asking for an anti-discriminatory injunction against Pulaski County which provides three high schools for white students but requires Negroes to make a 60-mile round trip to Christiansburg Industrial Institute in neighboring Montgomery County.

"Owing to the longer ride", the court ruled in a decision written by Judge Armistead M. Dobie, former dean of the University of Virginia Law School, "as compared with white school students, Negro children must forego many healthful activities at school and have less time for study, recreation and play. The toll thus imposed on Negro students and their parents is both real and severe."

Segregation is required by Virginia's state constitution, but Judge Dobie held in his opinion that:

"Segregation would be invalid here if these plaintiffs and others of their race and color similarly situated, are discriminated against, and substantially equal facilities are denied to them by virtue of their race and color."

The court found that in some respects conditions at Christiansburg were better than in the 3 white schools: instructional costs per pupil at the school for Negroes ($118.35) were higher than at all 3 white schools ($95, $98.39, $102); more of the teachers at Christiansburg held college degrees and full collegiate professional certificates than in any of the 3 white schools; and Christiansburg is fully accredited by the state of Virginia and the Southern Association, but 2 of the white schools are not accredited by the Association. On the other side of the ledger, the court found that the white schools offered a wider variety of courses, had better recreational facilities, and maintained superior laboratory and library equipment.

The appeals court remanded the case to the district court for specific findings by Judge Barksdale on the question of discrimination against Negroes in each of the elementary schools in Pulaski County.

In making such findings, said the appeals court,

"The question cannot be decided by averaging the facilities provided for the two classes of pupils throughout the country and comparing one with the other, since the rights created by the Fourteenth Amendment are individual and personal . . ."

Attorneys for the appellants were Oliver W. Hill, Spottswood W. Robinson III, Martin A. Martin; for the appellees, Alton I. Crowell and John W. B. Deeds.

Jim Crow Buses Ruled Out In Federal Court Action

In a decision based on the Supreme Court decision in the Morgan case, the U. S. Court of Appeals at Cincinnati has ruled that the practice of the Southern Bus Lines, Inc. in segregating interstate passengers places an undue burden on inter-state commerce. On May 6, 1946 Miss Elizabeth Whiteside, en route from St. Louis to Paducah, refused to move to the rear of the bus at the Kentucky line. She was evicted and claims to have been injured. Federal District Judge Shelbourne dismissed Miss Whiteside's damage suit for $50,000 when the company contended that it was following a Kentucky segregation law. The Court of Appeals reversed this decision and remanded the case to the district court for a new trial.

SCEF Elects Board Members

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., at Washington, D. C. on November 6th, the following new members of the Board were elected: DR. RUFUS ATWOOD, President Kentucky State College, Frankfort, Ky.; DR. A. D. BEITTEL, President Talladega College, Talladega, Ala.; THOMAS JOHNSON, Attorney, Macon, Ga.; THOMAS LUDWIG, Farmers Union, Huntington, Tenn.; MRS. AUBREY H. STRAUS, Richmond, Va.; DR. CHAS. H. THOMPSON, Dean of the Graduate School, Howard University, Washington, D. C.; DR. PALMER WEBER, Washington, D. C.

Negro Colleges Ask For Admission To Southern Association

The Southern Asso. of Colleges and Secondary Schools meeting at Houston, Tex., Dec. 1, was asked to accept Negro institutions into full membership.

DR. BEITTEL

DR. A. D. BEITTEL, president of Talladega College, Ala., speaking for the Asso. of Southern Negro Colleges and Secondary Schools, told the convention that after 20 years of accreditation, Negro schools were now "knocking on the door" of the Association "requesting admission into full membership".

Dr. Beittel pointed out that Negro and white labor leaders recently met in the very hotel in Houston, where the Association was in session, to discuss labor problems in the South; that the Brewers Asso. met not long ago in the Shamrock Hotel with Negro and white brewers present to discuss accreditation of breweries.

"It will be most unfortunate", Dr. Beittel stated, "if the brewers and the labor leaders move on ahead of Southern educators in working together on the perplexing problems of the region".

Action on admitting Negro institutions was postponed until at least the next annual meeting.

The report of the Texas Commission on Democracy in Education to the 65th annual convention of the Colored Teachers State Asso. at Houston, Nov. 24-26 had this to say about regional education:

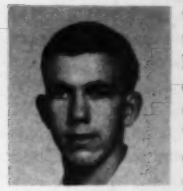
"Regional education, as sponsored by the compact of Southern Governors, was conceived by politicians to expand and strengthen the structure of the South's present costly, dual system of 'separate and unequal' education. It violates our National democratic ideal of the equality of American citizens under the Federal constitution, and breaks with present determined trends in bi-racial education and progress in democratic government. It has the unqualified opposition of the Texas commission."

DR. MAYS HONORED BY CHICAGO

President Benjamin E. Mays, of Morehouse College, was named the 1949 "Alumnus of the Year" by the University of Chicago Divinity School.

College Students Fight Segregation

One of the most hopeful things about the South is the manner in which the present generation of college students is taking the lead in the fight to open the state universities to Negroes. In this respect they are, in many instances, in advance of their so-called "leaders".



MR. CROWN

The Equal Education Committee at the University of Oklahoma is actively campaigning for the elimination of the "Reserved for Colored" signs on the campus. At the University of Texas there has been an active student group working for the admission of Negroes and giving support to Herman Sweatt in his fight to gain admission to the law school at Austin. And in Florida leadership in the fight to open the graduate schools of the state university is being sparked by the Committee for Equal Education.

The publicity committee of the CFEE at Gainesville, composed of Paul H. Cootner, James T. Crown, and Dov O'Kouneff, has issued a three-page mimeographed release giving highlights of the fight in Florida.

The CFEE had its inception in March 1948 when about 50 students organized a meeting to protest the proposed meeting at Gainesville of the Conference of Southern Governors, "a conference . . . attempting to bolster the crumbling walls of a segregation system which had so long prevented the Negro from obtaining the educational opportunities he so deserved and needed." According to the student release, "This protest against regional, segregated education resulted in the cancellation of the governors' meeting."

In April the committee sent a telegram to Sen. Pepper and the Senate Education Committee urging them to withhold federal support for the regional plan.

In January the committee sent 2 students to New York to confer with officials of the NAACP concerning the filing of a suit to force the admission of Negroes to the University.

Returning, the students contacted a number of Negro leaders in Florida and formed a joint, statewide committee for the purposes of finding qualified students desiring to enter the university, raising funds, and employing a lawyer.

Mr. Alex Akerman, Jr. of Orlando, former state legislator from Orange Country and son of a federal judge, was selected as the attorney.

In May 1949 Mr. Akerman appeared before the State Board of Control in behalf of 6 students seeking admission to the University. Two of the students, Virgil D. Hawkins and William T. Lewis had applied for admission to the law school; Rose Boyd sought admission to the school of pharmacy; Oliver Maxey and Jack C. Freeman, engineering; and Benjamin F. Finney, agriculture.

The students were denied admission.

The student paper, **The Florida Alligator** gave editorial support to the admission of Negroes and conducted a poll of student opinion on the question of "Do you want Negroes to be admitted to the University of Florida?" The results revealed that 74% of the votes were in favor of admission.

The students are now engaged in a campaign to raise $450. to help defray the expense of carrying the cases to the state Supreme Court.

What has been done thus far at the University of Florida "is considered by students of the Committee for Equal Education to be a striking example of the progress that can be made through the cooperation of liberal and open-minded citizens of both races in the South".

The Memphis **Commercial Appeal** has be sent to Mr. Alex Akerman, Jr., 401 First National Bank Building, Orlando, Fla., or care of the **Southern Patriot**, 822 Perdido St., New Orleans, La.

HISTORY OF THE E. E. C. AT OKLAHOMA UNIVERSITY

The Equal Education Committee was first formed in the fall of 1948 at O. U. for the purpose of fighting jim crow. At the time it was formed there were a few religious groups on the campus working against racial prejudice, but a single organization was needed to coordinate the activities, one which would have no other projects and could devote its full time to fighting for Negro rights. E. E. C. was the answer.

MISS HICKMAN

A few weeks afterwards, an Equal Education Committee was formed on the Langston campus with the same purpose as the O. U., E. E. C. Later in the school year these two groups joined together and elected Joe Davis of Langston as state president.

On January 6, 1949, after several joint meetings, the Langston O. U., E. E. C. had a 43-man picket line around the state capital building with pickets and leaflets demanding legislation enabling Negroes to enter O. U.

In March, 1949, the E. E. C. at O. U. was chartered by the Student Senate and Dr. Howard O. Eaton became our faculty sponsor. Our constitution approved by the Student Senate stated, **"We are an organization working to end segregation. Our works will not be finished as long as any racial discrimination still exists."**

We carried on several work projects this spring, always feeling the urgency to do as much as we could as soon as we could. We sponsored interracial forums on segregation; conducted student polls; published a bi-monthly newspaper with groups at Langston, A. & M., and Enid; held O. U.-Langston student meetings at O. U.; lobbied for House Bill 405; wrote letters to representatives and newspapers in the state, and worked on several minor projects.

The E. E. C. At Present

At the present time the E. E. C. at O. U. has a membership of 40. The officers are: Malcolm Whitby, vice-president; George Beleu, secretary; Stan Goldstein, treasurer; Bud Dole, social chairman, and myself, president. Dr. Carleton Berenda of the Philosophy department is faculty sponsor.

We are concentrating our activities this year primarily on (1) breaking down segregation and discriminatory practices at O. U., (especially those practices imposed upon the Negro students which are not required by law); (2) intergrating Negro students into university affairs; (3) educating the student body to realize the stupidity of segregation; (4) educating easy-going liberals to the fact that the job is not over now, that as long as dual education exists anywhere at any level in Oklahoma, our fight is not finished.

MARY KATHERINE HICKMAN